

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

**Plaintiff,**

**vs.**

**6:12-CV-0087  
(MAD/ATB)**

**BRENDA BEAM,**

**Defendant.**

**APPEARANCES:**

OVERTON, RUSSELL, DOERR & DONOVAN, LLP  
19 Executive Park Drive  
Clifton Park, New York 12065  
*Attorney for Plaintiff*

**OF COUNSEL:**

Linda L. Donovan, Esq.

**Mae A. D'Agostino, U.S. District Judge:**

**MEMORANDUM-DECISION AND ORDER**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On January 18, 2012, plaintiff United States of America (“plaintiff”) commenced the above captioned action alleging that defendant defaulted on three promissory notes. Presently before the Court is plaintiff’s motion for entry of a default judgment against defendant. (Dkt. No. 7). The Court has jurisdiction over this suit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1345.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The Court has taken the facts set forth below from plaintiff’s complaint and the Certificate of Indebtedness from the United States Department of Education executed on July 26, 2011.<sup>1</sup> Defendant Brenda Beam is an individual and resident of New York. On July 27, 1995 and September 16, 1995, defendant executed two promissory notes to secure Direct Loans from the

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<sup>1</sup> Defendant has submitted no contrary evidence as to the material facts.

U.S. Department of Education through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. On July 28, 1995 and October 11, 1995, the loans were disbursed in two payments, \$2,000.00 and \$625.00 with interest accruing at a rate of 3.16 % per annum. On April 3, 2007, the Department demanded payment according to the note and defendant defaulted. The Certificate provides that, as of July 26, 2011, defendant owes the following:

Principal	\$ 2,666.55
Interest	\$ 723.63
Total	\$ 3,390.18

The Certificate also provides that, “[i]nterest accrues on the principal shown here at a rate of \$.23 per day”.

On September 18, 1995, plaintiff executed a promissory note to secure a loan under the Federally-funded National Defense/Direct Student Loan, now Perkins Student Loan, program for \$500.00 with an interest rate of 5.00% per annum. On July 2, 2007, defendant defaulted. The Certificate provides that, as of July 26, 2011, defendant owes the following:

Principal	\$500.00
Interest	\$233.09
Total	\$733.09

The Certificate also provides that, “[i]nterest on the principal shown here at a rate of \$.07 per day”.

On January 18, 2012, plaintiff filed the complaint (Dkt. No. 1) alleging that defendant owes debt as follows:

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Current Principal	\$ 2,666.55
Current Capitalized Interest	
Balance and Accrued Interest	\$ 768.40
Administrative Fee, Costs,	
Penalties	\$ 0

Total	\$ 3,434.95
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**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

Current Principal	\$ 500.00
Current Capitalized Interest	
Balance and Accrued Interest	\$ 246.37
Administrative Fee, Costs,	
Penalties	\$ 0
Total	\$ 746.37

Plaintiff seeks the sum above plus prejudgment interest through the date of judgment, administrative costs allowed by law and post-judgment interest pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961.

### **III. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. Default Judgment**

“Under Rule 55(b) default judgment shall be entered if a defendant has failed to plead or otherwise defend an action.” *Parise v. Riccelli Haulers, Inc.*, 672 F.Supp. 72, 74 (N.D.N.Y.1987). Fed.R.Civ.P. 55(b)(2) and Local Rule 55.2 set forth the procedural prerequisites plaintiffs must meet before a motion for default motion may be granted. Plaintiff must: (1) properly serve defendant with a summons and complaint (to which no response has been made); (2) obtain an entry of default; and (3) provide an affidavit setting forth the facts required by L.R. 55.2(a), including an affidavit of non-military service and evidence that defendant is neither an infant nor incompetent. See Fed.R.Civ.P. 55(b)(2); N.Y.N.D.L.R. 55.1 and 55.2.

As referenced above, plaintiff filed a complaint on January 18, 2012. On January 27, 2012, plaintiff filed the return of service with the Court. Plaintiff avers that defendant never answered or otherwise moved with respect to the complaint, thus on February 13, 2012, plaintiff requested a clerk's entry of default. Said default was entered on February 21, 2012. On February 22, 2012, plaintiff filed a notice of motion for default judgment pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 55(b).

Plaintiff has fulfilled the procedural prerequisites for default judgment. Accordingly, the Court will address the issues of liability and damages.

**B. Liability**

“A party's default is deemed to constitute a concession of all well-pleaded allegations of liability.” *Greyhound Exhibitgroup v. E.L. U.L. Realty*, 973 F.2d 155, 158 (2d Cir. 1992). The only question remaining is whether plaintiff has provided adequate support for the relief sought. *Id.* The allegations in plaintiff's complaint and supporting papers are therefore presumed accurate.

Here, plaintiff claims that defendant defaulted on her obligations under the Notes. By failing to answer plaintiff's complaint or oppose this motion, defendant has effectively conceded that she is bound by the terms of the Notes she entered into with plaintiff, and liable for the entire amount as assessed by plaintiff, as well as interest. Plaintiff has met the “modest threshold burden in establishing entitlement to a default judgment against defendant, under the circumstances”. *See U.S. v. Simmons*, 2012 WL 685498, at \*2 (N.D.N.Y. 2012).

**C. Damages**

Courts have previously awarded plaintiffs damages relying solely on Certificates of Indebtedness. *U.S. v. Zdenek*, 2011 WL 6754100, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. 2011) (collecting cases). Here, according to the Certificates of Indebtedness, on the First Cause of action, \$2,666.55 in principal remains due and owing to plaintiff, \$723.33 in accrued interest, plus additional interest in the amount of \$.23 per day through the date of judgment. As to the second cause of action, \$500.00 in principal remains due and owing to plaintiff, \$233.07 in accrued interest, plus additional interest in the amount of \$.07 per day. The Court awards plaintiff the aforementioned amount. *See id.*

In addition, plaintiff seeks post-judgment interest pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961. The statute provides, in pertinent part:

Interest shall be allowed on any money judgment in a civil case recovered in a district court. . . Such interest shall be calculated from the date of the entry of the judgment, at a rate equal to the weekly average 1-year constant maturity Treasury yield, as published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, for the calendar week preceding the date of the judgment.

“Post-judgment interest serves as a means to compensate the successful plaintiff for being deprived of compensation for the loss from the time between the ascertainment of the damage and the payment by the defendant”. *Westinghouse Credit Corp. v. D'Urso*, 371 F.3d 96, 101 (2d Cir. 2004) (citation and quotation omitted). An award of post-judgment interest is mandatory in any civil case where money damages are recovered. *U.S. v. Saccente*, 2011 WL 1044475, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. 2011). Accordingly, plaintiff is awarded post-judgment interest calculated pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961.

Plaintiff also seeks \$25.00 for service and travel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1921. The submissions are insufficient in this regard. Plaintiff has failed to provide any explanation or documentation to support this request for fees. See *U.S. v. Zdenek*, 2011 WL 6754100, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. 2011). Accordingly, the Court denies plaintiff's request.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

It is hereby

**ORDERED** that in view of default by defendant in failing to answer the complaint or make any appearance in this matter and the Clerk of the Court having entered default by defendant and no appearance or objection having been made by defendant since that time, plaintiff's motion for default judgment (Dkt. No. 7) against defendant is **GRANTED**; it if further

**ORDERED** that plaintiff, on the first cause of action, is awarded \$2,666.55 in unpaid principal, \$768.40 in accrued interest, an additional \$.23 in interest for each day after January 12, 2012 until judgment is entered, and post-judgment interest calculated pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961; it is further

**ORDERED** that plaintiff, on the second cause of action, is awarded \$500.00 in unpaid principal, \$246.37 in accrued interest, an additional \$.07 in interest for each day after January 12, 2012 until judgment is entered, and post-judgment interest calculated pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1961.

The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment and close this case.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: May 17, 2012  
Albany, New York

  
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**Mae A. D'Agostino**  
U.S. District Judge